

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1 and 11 to place the application in immediate condition for allowance, as discussed in further detail below under the 'Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102' section.

Preliminary Matters

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim to foreign priority and receipt of a certified copy of the priority document.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to indicate that the drawings submitted on January 27, 2004 have been accepted.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 9-10 and 12-13 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. However, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to hold in abeyance such rewriting of the claims until the Examiner has had an opportunity to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the other claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-8, 11, and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,375,584 to Muzumdar *et al.* ("Muzumdar"). For *at least* the following reasons, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

For example, amended claim 1 recites a telephone set comprising, *inter alia*, (1) a telephone main body comprising a handset placing unit, (2) an interchangeable dial button unit

attached to said telephone main body, and (3) an interchangeable line button unit attached to said telephone main body. The components (1)-(3) are structured so that said interchangeable dial button unit and said interchangeable line button unit are detachable from said telephone body without disassembly of said telephone main body.

The Examiner contends that in figures 1 and 17 of Muzumdar, the base 12 suggests the telephone main body, and the dial keys 22 and line keys 24 correspond to the interchangeable dial button unit and the interchangeable line button unit of claim 1, respectively. Moreover, the Examiner contends that Muzumdar, in col. 5, line 48 to col. 7, line 28, discloses that the dial keys 22 and line keys 24 of the telephone keyset instrument 10 in Muzumdar are detachable from the telephone main body of the keyset instrument 10 "via cables, plugs, and receptacles" without disassembly of the telephone main body (Office Action at page 2).

In the previous Amendment filed on March 23, 2007, Applicants pointed out that in Muzumdar, the base 12 is disassembled to remove the key switch PC board 64 (which includes the dial keys 22 and the line keys 24). Specifically, Applicants explained that Muzumdar discloses that the handset 28 can no longer be placed on the main housing 16 when the key switch PC board 64 is detached from the base 12. Therefore, Muzumdar does not disclose or suggest an interchangeable dial button unit, an interchangeable line button unit, and an interchangeable display unit that are detachable from said telephone body *without disassembly of said telephone main body.*

In response to the arguments, in the current Office Action, the Examiner contends that claim 1 does not recite specific structure of the claimed telephone main body (Office Action, page 4). Accordingly, in order to place the application in immediate condition for allowance,

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite that the telephone main body comprises a handset placing unit.

As submitted above, the handset 28 in Muzmudar can no longer be placed on the main housing 16 when the key switch PC board 64 is detached from the base 12. On the other hand, claim 1 recites that the interchangeable dial button unit and the interchangeable line button unit are detachable from said telephone body without disassembly of said telephone main body. For example, the interchangeable dial button unit and the interchangeable line button unit are detachable from said telephone body without disassembly of the handset placing unit included in the telephone main body.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection.

Since claims 2-8 and 14-15 depend from claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit claims 2-8 and 14-15 are patentable *at least* by virtue of their dependency. However, Applicants submit claim 14 is patentable for reasons other than its dependency.

Claim 14 recites that the interchangeable dial button unit, the interchangeable line button unit and the interchangeable display unit are independent of each other. The Examiner alleges that FIGS. 1-2, col. 7, lines 29-44, and col. 8, lines 54-60 disclose this feature. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above with respect to claim 1, Muzmudar discloses that the key switch PC board 64 includes the dial keys 22 and the line keys 24. The dial keys 22 or the line keys 24 cannot be individually detached from the keyset instrument 10 of Muzmudar. They are

collectively detached from the keyset instrument 10. Therefore, the dial keys 22 and the line keys 24 are not independent of each other as the Examiner alleges.

Claim 11

Amended claim 11 recites a key telephone system comprising, *inter alia*, a telephone set that comprises a telephone main body, an interchangeable dial button unit, and an interchangeable line button unit that are structured so that said interchangeable dial button unit, and said interchangeable line button unit are detachable from said telephone body *without disassembly of said telephone main body*. The telephone main body comprises a handset placing unit. As such, Applicants respectfully submit claim 11 is patentable for *at least* reasons analogous to those given above with respect to claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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